

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-10, and 12 are now pending. Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Amended claim 1 now includes claim 3. Therefore, no new matter is added. Claim 3 in turn has been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Niwa et al. (JP-A 08-143806). The distinguished features of the present claims from those of Niwa are as follows:

(a) the inks has:

(i) an oxetane compound; and

(ii) an epoxy compound or a vinyl ether compound;

(b) a ratio of the oxetane compound in the ink is 65 to 95 weight%; and

(c) the ink has a viscosity of 10 to 500 mPa·s at 30° C and a viscosity of 7 to 30 mPa·s when heated to at least 40° C.

The above-described features are preferably required to obtain higher effects of the present invention. The combination of: (i) an oxetane compound; and (ii) an epoxy compound or a vinyl ether compound, is preferable to achieve a high degree of curing of the ink. Especially, when the ratio of oxetane compound in the ink is 65-95 weight%, high image quality can be achieved (see page 11, line 2 to the end of the present specification.)

When the viscosity is inside the claimed range, bleeding of the ink can be minimized, and stable ink jetting can be achieved.

The inks of Niwa are designed for use of print inks. It is demonstrated in the Declaration that all of the inks described in Niwa (Example Inks 1-7) do not meet the above described requirements (a) - (c) of the ink of the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) should be withdrawn.

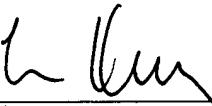
There are no teachings or suggestions to adjust the ink of Niwa to satisfy all of the requirements of (a) - (c) so as to apply the ink of Niwa to ink-jet recording. Applicants respectfully submit that the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) should be withdrawn.

By taking consideration of the above-described amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2006

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